

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY

President, David J Wills CBP

Torquay Museum Society was formed in 1844 as the Torquay Natural History Society. By 1875 it had raised enough money to build the Natural History Society Museum – the iconic building that houses the Museum’s internationally important collections, where the Society is still based and holds its varied and entertaining lectures.

There are two Public Lecture Seasons each year: the Autumn/Winter Season which runs from early October until January, and the Spring Season which runs from January until mid-April. Lectures take place twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 10.45am – 12noon. Admission is free to Museum Society Members, but is also open to members of the public for an admission cost of £5 per lecture, payable on the door.

Throughout the summer months the Society hosts informal gatherings – conversazione – at which Members enjoy shorts talks, discussion and light refreshments. The hallmark of the conversazione is informality and variety.

BECOME A MEMBER

Membership of the Society opens up a host of potential activities and opportunities to become active within the Society. As a Member, you are entitled to free admission to all of the Public Lectures and Torquay Museum itself. You will also be entitled to join a wide variety of other Society groups, including Geology, Archaeology and Astronomy, Local History, Zoology and Ornithology, Botany, Literature and the Arts, and the Friday Rambles Group.

The Museum Society membership year runs from October until the following September. Individual membership is £60 per annum and joint membership is £100 per annum. Pick up a Membership form from Torquay Museum or download it from the Museum’s website.

THE LECTURES TEAM



Humanities
David Wills



Literature & Arts
Ken Beevers



History
Christine Meredith



Natural History
Bill Hudson



Science
David Norman

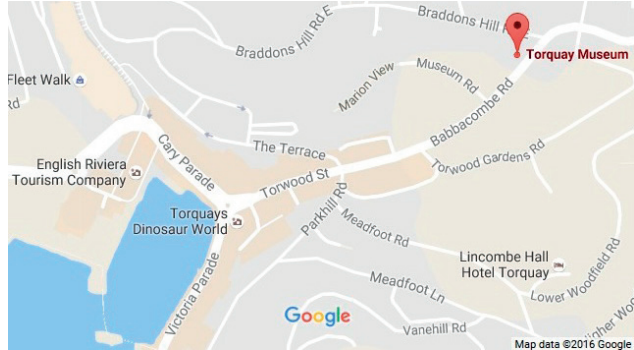


Lecture Reception
Ann Shaw

To identify who has organised a lecture, match the colour codes above with the colour-coded lecture information inside. The organisers welcome your comments and suggestions.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

HOW TO FIND US



Torquay Museum 529 Babbacombe Road, TQ1 1HG
Tel 01803 293975 www.torquaymuseum.org

WALKING: The Museum is a couple of hundred metres up Babbacombe Road from the Mallock Clock Tower.

BY BUS: No 22 bus stops directly outside the Museum.

PARKING: Pay-and-display opposite the Museum or at the Harbour Car Park (access via Museum Road). Two hours free parking on some nearby streets.

THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

A number of our lectures conclude with book-signings in the Museum Gift Shop. The shop carries books and many other items relating to current exhibitions and local history. We also sell an array of Agatha Christie merchandise, including DVDs, rare and out-of-print editions of her novels, and high-quality photographs taken from the Museum’s ‘Mistress of Crime’ archive.

THE MUSEUM CAFÉ

Open from 10am to 2pm on lecture days, the café serves hot and cold drinks, cakes and lunch. A great place to relax before and after lectures.

ACCESS

There are lifts, disabled facilities and step-free access throughout the Museum.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES

membership@torquaymuseum.org



Torquay Museum Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Registered Charity Number 1161126.

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY PUBLIC LECTURES OCT 2022 - JAN 2023



The Physics of Piracy
See inside for further details of lecture on
7th December

Every Tuesday and Wednesday
10.45am - 12 noon
Torquay Museum Society Members
Free of Charge
Non-members £5, payable on the door

OCTOBER 2022

TUESDAY 4th

BY A TORQUAY GRAVESIDE Dr Kevin Dixon

Torquay's early churchyards and later cemetery reflect the evolution of the town through changing attitudes to life and its leaving. Join us on a light-hearted 10,000-year journey through the Bay's funeral traditions.

WEDNESDAY 5th

HARPS AND PENGUINS Hazel Prior

This bestselling author talks about how she finds inspiration, and why harps and penguins hold particular significance for her. The talk will include excerpts from her books, with Celtic harp accompaniment.

TUESDAY 11th

MEDIEVAL SPECTACLES AND THE ART OF THE CONNOISSEUR

Dr Michael Rhodes

The earliest spectacles and how people have attempted to explain their significance.

WEDNESDAY 12th

CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL CRISIS? WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?

Dave Ramsden

This highly acclaimed introductory talk about the 'Climate and Ecological Crisis' is for those who don't 'get it', and for those who think they 'get it' but have done little or nothing about it.

TUESDAY 18th

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S ADVENTURES IN ARCHAEOLOGY Emma Seaman

Asked to describe an Agatha Christie story, you'll probably picture an affluent, rural and distinctively English setting - but her travels abroad and excavations at archaeological sites also provided the writer with intriguing settings and unusual plots. Local author Emma Seaman takes us on a tour of some of Christie's more unusual novels.

WEDNESDAY 19th

A WOMAN OF NOBLE WIT – A NOVEL OF SIR WALTER RALEIGH'S MOTHER Rosemary Griggs

An introduction to Katherine Champernowne, a remarkable Devon woman who was the mother of famous sons. Author Rosemary Griggs will share some of her research into Katherine, her family and the tumultuous times they lived through, which gave birth to her novel.

TUESDAY 25th

SPACE FOR INSPIRATION Dave Norman

A look at current science and events in space. This includes the latest James Webb Space Telescope images and the Artemis moon mission launch.

WEDNESDAY 26th

ROMANS IN DEVON

Owen Fullarton

An exploration of the role of auxiliaries in the Roman army, delving into their purpose, identities and importance.

NOVEMBER

TUESDAY 1st

HORNETS, THE GENTLE GIANTS

Stephen Powles

All you need to know about these fascinating insects...and more. They, and speaker Stephen, made a recent appearance on BBC's The One Show.

WEDNESDAY 2nd

THE CITIZEN PHAGE LIBRARY - HUNTING FOR HOLES OF HOPE THROUGH CITIZEN SCIENCE

Professor Ben Temperton

Antimicrobial resistance is the third biggest global killer after heart-disease and stroke. In the absence of new antibiotics, Phage Therapy offers promise to use viruses of bacteria as a personalised, low-cost and effective treatment.

TUESDAY 8th

TORQUAY AND EMANCIPATION IN 1834

Todd Gray

The emancipation of slavery compensated the owners, some of whom chose to relocate to Torbay. This lecture looks at the wider picture as well as focusing on Torquay as a chosen retirement area for former slave owners.

WEDNESDAY 9th

BENEVOLENT WISE WOMAN OR WICKED ANTAGONIST? - THE WITCH IN THE FOLKLORIC AND FAIRY TALE TRADITIONS

Chris Brooks

Following the evolution of the fairy tale witch from the early oral tradition, through the classic literary tradition and onto the Disney inspired modern interpretations, storyteller Chris Brooks asks the question: How and why has the role of the witch changed?

TUESDAY 15th

SIR WALTER RALEIGH - QUEEN ELIZABETH'S FAVOURITE DEVONIAN

Phil Badcott

Follow the ups and downs of the life of Devon's soldier, statesman, scholar and sea-explorer from his birth in 1552 in East Devon to his death in 1618. Be surprised at the incredible achievements of our Devonshire genius

WEDNESDAY 16th

CLENNON LAKES NATURE RESERVE - WORKING PROGRESS AND WILDLIFE SIX YEARS ON

Mike Langman

Torbay's best wetland site, which was nearly lost through lack of management. Chairman of the Friends of Clennon Lakes Group, Mike Langman, talks about the highs and lows of running this local conservation group, which has helped improve the site, and some of the many wildlife encounters.

TUESDAY 22nd

THE NOTORIOUS DARTMOOR PRISON AND THE AMERICAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR, FROM 1812-1815 Graham Slater

How and why Dartmoor prison came to be built, where it is, and how, between 1812 and 1815, it housed thousands of American prisoners-of-war.

WEDNESDAY 23rd

EDEN PHILPOTTS

Bill Murray

Devon's most prolific author, Eden Philpotts published in excess of 220 books. These included romantic tales, crime fiction, poetry collections, industrial novels, children's fantasy literature, short stories and gardening books. Living and writing in Torquay from 1899 until 1929, he died in 1960 at the age of 98.

TUESDAY 29th

SNOWBALL EARTH - GLOBAL GLACIATION AND THE APPEARANCE OF COMPLEX LIFE ON EARTH

Paul Fellows

A look at the theories and evidence around global glaciation events 600 million years ago, and how this may have opened the way for all of complex life on Earth.

WEDNESDAY 30th

THE HISTORY OF DEVON'S BRIDGES

Robert Hesketh

Devon is a county of bridges. This talk explores their history and development, from fords and clapper bridges to modern railway and road bridges, with the aid of ample illustrations.

DECEMBER

TUESDAY 6th

TROPICAL RAINFORESTS

Roger Hamilton

An explanation of how rainforests are organised, and how these enormously complex environments tick.

WEDNESDAY 7th

THE PHYSICS OF PIRACY

Dr Jonty Depp

Do pirate movies get the science right? Have you ever wondered if pirates needed gold and silver for more than just their riches? Perhaps humble pirates know more about the physics of piracy than might appear at first sight? Nautical Engineer and thespian, Dr Jonty Depp, will take his audience on a unique journey through the worlds of piracy and physics – unusual bedfellows.

TUESDAY 13th

THE CHRISTMAS STAR AND THE ADVENT OF THE CALENDAR

Dave Norman

In this festive-themed talk, engineer and amateur astronomer Dave Norman examines the reality and myth of the Christmas Star, and explores the development and origins of the calendar.

WEDNESDAY 14th

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY AGM, ANNUAL OPEN FORUM AND CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Society Members debate matters of interest and Non-members are welcome to attend. The AGM and forum are followed by the annual Christmas Social.

JANUARY 2023

TUESDAY 10th

BEHIND THE SCENES AT DARTMOOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

Alan Pewsey

Hill Party Leader, Alan Pewsey, presents an entertaining and informative talk on the work of the important service provided by the volunteers of Dartmoor Search and Rescue, including film footage behind the scenes, and details of callouts.

WEDNESDAY 11th

MY BUTTERFLY MEMORIES – SPAIN

Bill Hudson

Naturalist Bill Hudson shares his butterfly encounters and beautiful photographs from his journeys around Spain.

TUESDAY 17th

THE ENGLISH RIVIERA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

Melanie Border

English Riviera Geopark Coordinator and author, Mel Border, gives a fascinating account of one of the world's most beautiful and significant Geoparks, designated in 2007 by UNESCO because of its unique and often spectacular geology and natural environment.

WEDNESDAY 18th

ADVENTURES IN FILMMAKING WITH AN AWARD-WINNING FILM DIRECTOR

Ashley Thorpe

A fascinating insight into the career of an award-winning Director, including his creative influences, working with Reece Shearsmith, creating an animated opening titles sequence for a horror anthology film for Neil Marshall and many other Directors, writing a radio play featured in the New York Times, and what's next.

TUESDAY 24th

AN ALTERNATIVE HISTORY OF MORRIS DANCING Robin Springett

An eclectic take on how Morris dancing arrived on these shores and how it became embedded in the English Folk scene. The speaker will describe the various forms of Morris Dancing today, and discuss how it might evolve.

WEDNESDAY 25th

KENTS CAVERN

Nick Powe

Reflecting on two decades of running Kents Cavern, Nick will also explore his involvement with Torbay's UNESCO Global Geopark designation. A fascinating illustrated talk about Kents Cavern's unique and long association with humankind - maybe the longest human link to any one place on the planet.

TUESDAY 31st

WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

John Walters

Wildlife stories from the south-west and further afield, including 'jumping bean' sawflies, Lunar Hornet Moths and wild Hamsters.